

1938.

Rural District Council
of Alton.

COPY.

Annual Report
OF
Medical Officer of Health.



To the Alton Rural District Council.

ALTON, HANTS.

April, 1939.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The following is my Report on this District for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

The Area of the District is (in acres)	...	65,526.
The Population, 1931 Census	...	20,455.
" " (estimated 1938)	...	20,730.
The number of inhabited houses is	...	5162.
The rateable value is	...	£114,539.
The sum represented by a penny rate is	£461 7s. 1d.	

LIVE BIRTHS. Legitimate Males, 186 ; Females, 142 ; Illegitimate Males, 9 ; Females, 6 : Total, 343.

BIRTH RATE 16.5.

STILL BIRTHS. Males, 5 ; Females, 5 : Total, 10.

DEATHS. The total number of Deaths of Persons belonging to this district was 215, of these 111 died outside my district.

DEATH RATE 10.3 per 1000 of population.

Deaths from Puerperal causes	...	0
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	...	7
Deaths from Cancer	...	31
" Measles	...	0
" Whooping Cough	...	1
" Diarrhœa	...	0

Deaths over 70 years of age numbered 102 ; of these 42 were over 80, and 6 were over 90 years of age.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Public Health Officers are :

Medical Officer of Health, part time officer.

Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector, whole time officers.

Four District Medical Officers under the Poor Law.

Four Public Vaccinators.

There has been no change during the year in the Laboratory facilities, Ambulance Services, Nursing arrangements, or Hospital accommodation.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER. The Parishes of Four Marks, Medstead, Ropley and West Tisted are almost wholly supplied by underground rainwater storage tanks, owing to their elevation and the depth of the water-bearing strata.

In the past, the Council's policy with reference to new buildings has been the requirement of underground rainwater storage tanks of a minimum capacity of 2,500 gallons. In actual practice, tanks of approximately 3,700 gallons capacity were constructed. The policy has now been amended to require the tanks to be of a minimum capacity of 5,000 gallons.

The Parishes of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden are supplied from the mains of the Herriard and Lasham Water Company, and the Company have statutory powers to supply water in the Parishes of Four Marks and Medstead, but so far they have not exercised their powers.

The Parishes of Bentley, Froyle, Grayshott and Headley are, for the greater part, supplied by the Wey Valley Water Company.

Under guarantees or loan assistance from this Council, the Wey Valley Water Company have provided supplies in the Parishes of Binsted, Chawton, Farringdon, Kingsley, Selborne and Whitehill, and during the year supplies have been further extended in the Parish of Binsted. A scheme has also been prepared for the provision, by the Company, of a supply in the Parish of Newton Valence.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Bentley is the only Parish where a scheme is in operation. The sewage from the houses passes through their own screening chambers, the solids thereby being retained, and the effluent passing direct into the sewers where it is conveyed to the outfall and treated by broad land irrigation.

A scheme is in course of preparation for the internal sewerage of Grayshott, with a view to linking up with a drainage scheme being prepared by the Haslemere Urban District Council. The combined treatment works to be situate in this Council's District.

A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal works has been prepared for the Parish of Whitehill, and application has been made to the Minister of Health for sanction to the borrowing of the sum necessary to carry out the scheme for sewerage the civil area and taking over from the War Department the existing sewers and treatment works serving Bordon Camp.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. Very little pollution of streams is met with in the District. There are no offensive trades in the District from which any pollution passes to streams or water-courses. The District lies within the Area of the Thames Conservancy Commissioners, who keep a close watch on rivers and streams.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. No systematic conversion of closets on the conservancy system to the water carriage system has been carried out in the District. The closet accommodation consists mainly of dry earth closets and privies. Where privies are met with and found defective, they are mostly converted into earth closets. The number of privies met with are few, and no new ones have been constructed during the year.

SCAVENGING. The Parish of Grayshott is scavenged by private contract once fortnightly for dry non-combustible house refuse. The refuse is collected in a motor vehicle and disposed of by removal to an old disused quarry in the Parish of Headley, by agreement with the owner. The Haslemere Urban District Council, under an agreement with this Council, undertakes the collection and disposal of night soil twice weekly from a defined area in this Parish.

In defined areas at Bordon, Greatham and Whitehill, in the Parish of Whitehill, two collections per week of night soil and one collection per week of house refuse are made. In a further defined area in the same Parish, a fortnightly collection of dry non-combustible house refuse is carried out. These areas are scavenged by private contract under one contractor. House refuse is collected in a motor vehicle and disposed of in accordance with special conditions relating to refuse tips. Night soil is collected in an approved motor vehicle with tank, and disposed of on farm land owned and worked by the contractor. This arrangement has been found satisfactory.

Monthly collections of dry non-combustible house refuse are made in defined areas in the Parishes of Bentworth, Headley and Selborne; alternate monthly collections from the whole of the Parish of Four Marks; and quarterly collections in a defined area in the Parish of Chawton.

Schemes for monthly collections of dry non-combustible house refuse are being prepared to serve defined areas in the Parishes of Bentley and Froyle, and it is anticipated that the schemes will be in operation early in 1939.

A scheme of a similar character is under consideration to serve a further defined area in the Parish of Chawton.

HOP-PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION. New Draft Bye-Laws have been prepared for submission to the Minister of Health, and it is anticipated that these will be approved, and will come into operation for the forthcoming season. A number of hutments were substantially repaired during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following shows the number and nature of inspections made (excluding Housing Inspections) :—

Nuisances	...	...	131
Tents, Vans & Sheds	...	...	21
Hop-Pickers' Camps and Groups of Hutments			98
Factories and Workshops	...	...	66
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	305
School Water Supplies	...	...	4
Supervision of Scavenging	...	...	84
Water Supplies	...	...	97
Sewage Works and Public Water Supplies			34
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections	...		84
Inspection of Meat, Slaughterhouses, Shops and Stalls, and Places where Food is prepared	...	...	228
Petroleum Inspection	...	...	59
Licensing of Sites for Moveable Dwellings			50
Overcrowding	...	...	45
Unclassified	...	...	24
Total Number of Inspections			1,330

Number of Informal Notices served	...	71
" " " " abated	...	78
Number of Formal Notices served	...	7
" " " " abated	...	10

The following classification shows the number and nature of matters dealt with under the foregoing inspections :—

Drains and Cesspools cleansed and repaired	16
Improper Disposal of Domestic Waste Water	6
Accumulations of Refuse	6
Earth Closets cleansed, repaired or renewed	16
Dairies and Cowsheds cleansed, etc. ...	55
Factories and Workshops cleansed ...	2
Rainwater Tanks and Wells cleansed and repaired and Water Supplies improved	40
School Water Supplies improved ...	1
Disinfections	84
Water Samples	12
Dwellings passed for Completion ...	74
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 ...	9
Sites for Moveable Dwellings ...	12
Petroleum Licences issued during the year	53
Cases of Overcrowding	35
Unclassified	8
Total	429

CAMPING SITES.

Number of sites used for Camping Purposes	10
Number of Camping Sites licensed under Section 269 of Public Health Act, 1936	10
Estimated Maximum Number of Campers resident at one time during the Summer Season	106

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. There are no public swimming baths or pools, or privately owned baths or pools open to the public, coming under the Council's jurisdiction, in this area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. It has not been found necessary to take any action in this connection throughout the year.

SCHOOLS. The Sanitary Condition and Water Supply of Schools have been carefully gone into wherever circumstances have arisen which required investigation.

If Infectious Disease occurs in a school the scholars are all examined and in the case of an outbreak of Diphtheria, swabs are taken of both the nose and throat in order to remove carriers. If a school is closed for infectious disease the school is disinfected.

Housing Statistics.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	101
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	354
2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	8
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	48
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			11
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	29



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2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	26
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	3
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—				
	(a) By owners	...	...	...	12
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	4
2.	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	6
	(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	Nil

Under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, the owner of one cottage entered into an Undertaking to close or repair.

In accordance with Undertakings entered into :—

- 5 Houses have been repaired by the owners.
- 4 Houses have been closed pending demolition.

Under informal action by the Council's Officers, and in anticipation of notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- 4 Houses were reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
- 5 Houses were reconditioned by the owners without assistance.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	17
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	17
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	107
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	18
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	124
(d)		Number of cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Council have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Dairies and Cowsheds.			
Cowkeepers and Retail Purveyors of Milk			201
Retail Purveyors	...	...	3
			204

5 Dairies and Cowsheds have been substantially repaired or reconstructed.

In connection with applications made to the County Council for ' Accredited ' Licences, whenever possible the County Dairy Officer has been accompanied during his inspections of the producers' premises.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Slaughterhouses	...	7
Number of Knacker's Yards	...	1
Number of Slaughtermen's Licences Issued		10

Following prescribed notice of time and place of slaughter, the slaughter-houses were regularly inspected throughout the year, and I append a table showing the number of carcasses inspected and the number of condemnations made.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	55	16	114	744	595
Number inspected	48	14	72	627	503
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	-	-	2	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tub- erculosis	—	-	-	.32	.19
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	-	-	-	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.08	-	-	-	.99

Shops, stalls and places where food is prepared are inspected from time to time.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

This year there has been more Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever than for some time past.

There were 41 cases of Diphtheria and 38 cases of Scarlet Fever.

The Scarlet Fever cases, which were of a very mild type, were scattered throughout the District and nowhere was there any definite bad outbreak. Prompt isolation and disinfection stopped the infection in every case.

There were two outbreaks of Diphtheria, one at Binsted which lasted from January 24th—April 5th. During that time there were 13 cases; all these cases were removed to Hospital and carriers with Nasal Diphtheria who could not be treated at home were also sent to the Isolation Hospital.

The schools were swabbed, also children away from school. In this way it was possible to ascertain any carriers of Infection.

61 out of 81 children at Binsted school had been inoculated against Diphtheria in February, 1937.

The Infection was of a very virulent type and antitoxin was freely used.

Antitoxin was given to contacts in houses where a case had occurred.

When carriers were isolated at home they were given antitoxin and treated by the County Nurse with nasal douches.

The outbreak in the school was caused by a nasal carrier, a boy in a van who had come from outside the district.

The other outbreak occurred at Headley and Whitehill and lasted from July 2nd—October 3rd.

There had been during the summer several cases of Diphtheria at Bordon among the children at Bordon School which is under the care of the Military Authorities.

Deadwater School was the one affected in my District. Children from Lindford, Headley, go to this school. Altogether there were 17 cases of Diphtheria.

The same procedure as at Binsted took place with regard to isolation and treatment of carriers.

It was found that in certain cases parents had not sent for the doctor early enough in the disease with fatal results.

In consequence leaflets were issued throughout that part of the District urging parents to send for a doctor immediately a child was found to be suffering from a sore throat.

Parents were also advised to have their children inoculated against Diphtheria.

At Deadwater School 184 children had been inoculated; 132 in June and July, 1936, and 52 in May and June, 1938.

The outbreak in this school was caused by a boy who had had a mild attack of Diphtheria, was untreated and obviously a carrier in the school.

The other cases of Diphtheria in the District occurred at Blackmoor, 3; West Tisted, 2; Farringdon, 2; Bentworth, 1; Hartley Mauditt, 1.

There is no doubt about the value of inoculation of school children against Diphtheria. If a child did happen to get an attack, who had been previously inoculated, it was of a mild character. Children who had not been inoculated were severely ill and in some cases fatally.

There were 5 deaths from Diphtheria and none of these had been inoculated against the disease.

Diphtheria Immunization.

Consents were obtained from the parents for 352 children to be immunized and these were done in the schools during 1938.

Consents were obtained from the parents for 145 children between the ages of 1 and 5 years to be immunized and these were done.

The material used was A.P.T., 2 injections.

1851 School Children and Infants have been inoculated since 1936.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	41	38	1
Diphtheria ...	43	41	5
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	3	—
Pneumonia ...	3	3	7

Age Groups.

	Under 1 Year.	2.	3.	9.	10.	14.	17.	20.	35.
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	16	6	5	3	—	10
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	23	8	6	2	2	2

Cancer.

There were 31 deaths from Cancer, 15 males, 16 females.

The Age Distribution.

	Males.	Females.
40 ...	2	4
50 ...	2	3
60 ...	6	5
70 ...	3	4
80 ...	2	—

The British Empire Cancer Campaign arrange for Lectures to be given in the District to educate the Public on matters concerning Cancer.

Prevention of Blindness.

Three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified and removed at once to Hospital for treatment.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory. M.	Non-Respiratory. F.	Non-Respiratory. M.	F.	Respiratory. M.	Non-Respiratory. F.	Non-Respiratory. M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
5 ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 ...	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	—
25 ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
45 ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	3	7	2	2	1	—	1

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

I should like to add that your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Bennett, has rendered very valuable services during the year.

Your obedient servant,

H. CURRER WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

